

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

MONDAY, July 2, 1900.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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Divisions at Kansas City.

The most interesting development at Kansas City so far is the division of opinion over the platform. The brethren may be classed as conservatives and extremists. The conservatives are those who would retain in general terms the Chicago platform, and then come out strong on imperialism and trusts. The extremists are those who insist that the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform must be specific, so as to make it impossible for the republicans to bring the charge of a backdown against the democracy.

Strangely enough, Senator Jones, from the state of Arkansas, shows up in the ranks of the conservatives. Hear Mr. Jones:

"I don't think anything will be adopted by this convention that will be a deviation so much as the breadth of a hair from the principles laid down in the Chicago platform. A reaffirmation of the platform will mean the adoption of every word and letter in it, including the 16 to 1 declaration. I do not believe that of this plank or any other is necessary to make plain our position. If it is necessary to repeat the 16 to 1 provision it would be equally necessary to state that we are only and specifically there might be a claim that we did not mean to endorse the other platform in reaffirming the Chicago platform. If the convention adopts the Chicago platform it will mean that every syllable is endorsed. I do not know just what form the endorsement will take, but it will mean everything it says."

This is hardly a fair statement of the case. The silver plank of the Chicago platform is not to be classed in point of importance with the income tax plank, the anti-supreme court plank, or any other plank of that extraordinary document. It is a plank apart. It is the plank which brought to the support of Mr. Bryan the platform and the silver plank. The platform was not, could not have been, attracted to him by the others. They supported him solely because of the stand taken by him and his party on the silver issue. If therefore the silver plank is grouped now with the others in terms of general approval, there will be danger of a defection of popular and silver republicans from the Bryan ranks. The general approval will be charged to the influence of Wall street.

Equally strange is the fact that George Fred Williams, from the gold state of Massachusetts, shows up in the ranks of the extremists as a leader, indeed. Hear Mr. Williams:

"If we were right in 1896, why should we change now? To simply reaffirm the Chicago platform is not sufficient. Nor would it be enough to declare for himself. Every man could declare himself a bimetalist, and in a few words, and then vote to say that he would let his action in office speak for him. That was an excellent beginning in itself; and to the extent that he gives performances throughout his term of office will his work be likely to deserve and meet with approbation."

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